

March 16, 2009

Senator Edward Meyer
Legislative Office Building
Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Re: SB995

The Honorable Senator Meyer and Committee Members:


My name is Barry Miller and I am the Manager of Safety and Environmental for Redland Brick Inc. We own the KF Brick Plant in South Windsor which incidentally is closed now due to the slow housing market. We normally employ 45 people that are represented by the United Steelworkers Union.

I have been trying for over three years now to get an approval from the DEP to give away- yes give away lime, our waste product. I have failed to do so because the DEP has no authority to issue beneficial use permits. I asked the legislature to approve a bill last year but it did not pass. I have talked with a number of other businesses in Connecticut who have the same problem and similar stories- they have a recyclable waste product but cannot get a permit. Most of us have spent considerable amounts of money testing and proving our waste material is safe. A number of those businesses found this issue important enough to be here today even though I did not contact them about today's hearing until just this past Friday.

Our material is lime and it is safe to use as lime. I want to give it to farmers to put on their land to raise the pH of their soil and make it better for growing. The State agrees our material is safe to use. It was approved for use by the Dept of Agriculture. It was approved by the DEP in a temporary permit. I have also received a Demonstration Permit from the DEP but when that permit expires, I have no where to take it but the landfill. We own plants in Maryland and Pennsylvania and I give it to farmers to use there. There have been no problems with this and I do not even need a permit in those states.

I have met with the DEP and they want this bill to pass as they recognize that issuing these permits is the right thing to do environmentally. If Connecticut wants to consider itself an environmentally friendly state, it must have a way to recycle waste materials. Approving this bill for beneficial use is a "no brainer". Please pass this bill this year- we need it badly.

Sincerely,


Barry L. Miller

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